

## **Nadine Mathis Basha, Chair**

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Nadine Mathis Basha is currently engaged in public policy as it relates to early care and education for children 0 to 5 years. She is responsible for the passage of Proposition 203, creating a funding source for the system of early childhood education. Ms. Mathis Basha is the newly elected chair of the First Things First - Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board, which is responsible for the implementation and oversight of Proposition 203.



Ms. Mathis Basha taught for seven years in the public schools; as well as teaching and directing a private preschool program. She founded the Children's Action Alliance, a children's public policy advocacy group, and is past President of the Board of Directors. She has served on the Executive Committee for the Arizona Campaign, and as a Dean's Associate for ASU's College of Education. Ms. Mathis Basha was the founder and President of Summa Associates, one of the first consulting and management firms specializing in corporate child care and elder care services from 1986 to 1999. Summa Associates created innovative programs ranging from establishing the first corporate network of family child care homes, to the first consortium child care center in an industrial park. Her responsibilities included: overseeing the management of the company, project development, assisting employers in implementing new dependent care concepts, and management of a variety of child care assistance programs. Her expertise in business was acknowledged by Presidential Appointment to the White House Conference on Small Business.

Ms. Mathis Basha currently serves on the Boards of: WestEd, a regional educational research and development organization; the Center for the Future of Arizona; the Ellis Center for Educational Excellence; and is a Trustee for the Committee for Economic Development, as well as member of the Executive Committee for the Arizona Early Education Fund (AEEF). She served as the Chair of the Arizona State School Readiness board from 2003 to 2006. She was an appointee of the Governor to the Arizona State Board of Education from 1999 through 2005. Her role as a member of the State Board was to exercise general supervision over and regulate the conduct of the public education system.

Her accomplishments in the field of early childhood have been recognized by the Arizona State University's Distinguished Achievement Award and an Honorary Doctorate from Northern Arizona University. She received the 2007 Valle del Sol "Hall of Fame" Award, the 2007 National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) Child Care Leadership Award, the 2007 Prevent Child Abuse Arizona "Hope for Arizona's Children" Award, the Phoenix Theatre's 2006 "Women Who Care" Award, the Valley of the Sun United Way 2006 "Spirit of Caring" Individual Award, the 2006 "Early Learning Award of Distinction" from the Arizona Department of Education, the 2006 New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development "Science of Early Learning" Award, and the 2004 "Women of the Year" Award from Valley Leadership.

Ms. Mathis Basha received a B.S. in elementary education from the University of Kansas and a M.Ed. in early childhood education from Arizona State University.